

STATEMENT FOR PETER HAKIM  
OF INTERAMERICAN DIALOGUE**HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Peter Hakim for his tremendous work in leading the Inter-American Dialogue for over 16 years. It is impossible to fully express in words what he has accomplished as President. As a leader, Peter has facilitated discussion, cooperation and understanding of some of the toughest issues confronting our hemisphere and generated conversations among leaders that inevitably bettered our ability to work together. Whether on drug policy, immigration, the plight of Afro-Latinos or countless other issues, I have seen the fruits of his labor and I believe the legacy of success will be a model for future leaders to follow. Although Peter will now move on as President Emeritus, I am heartened to know that Michael Shifter will continue the momentum. Michael's role at the Dialogue has already shown us his exemplary work on the policies affecting the Americas. His work as president of the organization will no doubt be exemplary as well.

The list of Peter's accomplishments is long and my time is short, but I will end with this: I wish all the best to Peter and look forward to Michael Shifter now running with the baton.

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**HONORING PETER HAKIM****HON. CONNIE MACK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Peter Hakim for his service at the Inter-American Dialogue. Peter has testified in front of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee several times and has always been a passionate advocate for issues in Latin America. His personal insight into the inner workings of Latin American politics has been both constructive and resourceful to our Subcommittee and to Members of Congress.

Madam Speaker, the Inter-American Dialogue is an organization that brings an incredible amount of information to the discourse on freedom in Latin America. Through discussions and lectures, the Dialogue has brought greater awareness to the current issues facing Latin America.

I would also like to honor Mr. Michael Shifter, the new President of the Inter-American Dialogue, upon his appointment to this important role. I'm sure the Dialogue will benefit greatly from Michael's leadership and experience, and I look forward to working with both Michael and the Dialogue as we work toward greater freedom, security and prosperity in Latin America and the hemisphere.

## THANKING PETER HAKIM

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Peter Hakim for his 16 years of outstanding service as President of the Inter-American Dialogue. Under Peter's leadership, the Inter-American Dialogue has become a top center for policy analysis on U.S.-Latin American relations.

As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, I have benefited enormously from the first-rate work of the Inter-American Dialogue. My colleagues and I—and our staffs—consistently count on the Inter-American Dialogue's superb analysis of U.S.-Latin American relations.

Peter Hakim testified at my first hearing as Subcommittee Chairman in 2007, and I am pleased that he is closing out his tenure as Dialogue President as a witness at my hearing on U.S. Policy toward the Americas in 2010 and Beyond. His insights are extremely useful to me as I carry out oversight of our policies toward Latin America and the Caribbean. My colleagues and I have also greatly benefited from the dinner discussions organized by Peter and the Inter-American Dialogue where we debate key hemispheric issues. I am pleased that Peter will continue to serve the Inter-American Dialogue as President Emeritus, and I look forward to working with him in the coming years.

I also would like to commend Michael Shifter on his selection as the next president of the Inter-American Dialogue. Michael, who has served as the Dialogue's Vice President for Policy for several years, is clearly the best person for the job. Michael is no stranger to the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee himself. He has testified before my Subcommittee at hearings on the Colombia-Ecuador border crisis and Honduras. His essays and opinion pieces are published in a wide array of top U.S. and Latin American publications, and are a great resource for all of us in Congress.

I congratulate Peter Hakim and Michael Shifter and wish both of them and the Inter-American Dialogue many more years of success.

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**HONORING USC PRESIDENT  
STEVEN SAMPLE****HON. DIANE E. WATSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I, DIANE WATSON, along with Mr. BECERRA, Ms. BONO MACK, Mr. CAMPBELL, Ms. CHU, Mr. DREIER, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. NAPOLITANO, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. VISCLOSKEY, rise today to honor University of Southern California's 10th President, Steven B. Sample. After 15 years of dedicated leadership, President Sample will be retiring this August.

Steven Sample led an institutional rise at USC that is unparalleled in American higher education, helping the university become a highly selective undergraduate institution. He

drove faculty excellence to new levels. Not only did he create a network of global scholars and programs, but he also focused on building successful partnerships in local neighborhoods to spur economic and educational development. During his tenure, USC earned 20 national championships in men's and women's intercollegiate sports. In addition, he completed the largest fund-raising campaign in the history of higher education.

Under Sample's leadership, the University of Southern California attracted increasingly accomplished students, with SAT scores rising 300 points. Applications have nearly tripled since 1991. USC is now among the top five universities in the number of National Merit Scholars and first in the country in the number of international students.

By training, Steven B. Sample is an electrical engineer and a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His patents in the field of digital appliance controls have been licensed to practically every major manufacturer of appliance controls and microwave ovens in the world. More than 300 million home appliances have been built using his inventions.

President Sample's *The Contrarian's Guide to Leadership*, a Los Angeles Times best seller, was named one of six "must-reads" for leaders by Harvard Management Update of the Harvard Business School.

Sample donates all royalties to a scholarship fund for USC undergraduates. This book is translated into a leadership course that Sample teaches to Trojans every year.

His outreach has created numerous jobs locally. The University of Southern California became the largest private employer in the City of Los Angeles. It was ranked in the top five of a survey titled "Great Colleges to Work For" by the Chronicle of Higher Education in 2006, under Sample's leadership.

As a past chairman of the Association of American Universities, Sample understands the importance of intellectual collaboration. That is why he founded the Association of Pacific Rim Universities. Sample has also dedicated himself to promoting Los Angeles as the de facto capital of the Pacific Rim with its strong entrepreneurial-based businesses and commerce, the busiest seaports in the United States, creativity and intellectual capital, and unparalleled diversity.

Steven Sample's presidency of the University of Southern California has significantly benefitted the City of Los Angeles, the State of California, and, most important, thousands of Trojan students.

Kathryn Sample is her husband's most trusted ally and advisor and has dedicated herself unreservedly to helping strengthen USC's position as a world-class research university. They have two daughters, Michelle Sample Smith and Elizabeth Sample, and two grandchildren, Kathryn and Andrew Smith.

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**CONGRATULATING THE 2008 NATIONAL MEDAL OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION LAUREATES****HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, today I rise as the proud sponsor of